

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In view of the Examiner's adherence to the restriction requirement, claims 37, 38, 50 and 51 have been cancelled. However, applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of these claims.

The drawings have been corrected in the manner requested by the Examiner. Specifically, in Figure 6, the numeral "54" has been changed to the numeral - - 50 - -. A replacement sheet on which the numeral 54 has been changed to the numeral 50 is enclosed herewith.

The specification has been revised in the manner requested by the Examiner. Specifically, page 1, line 14, the Patent Number 4,846,606 has been changed to 4,856,606. Page 5, line 1 "Fig. 3" has been changed to - - Fig. 13 - -. At page 6, line 6 the words "shown schematically at" have been deleted. At page 8, line 9, the numeral "60" has been changed to the numeral - - 66 - -. At page 12, line 17, the numeral "108" has been changed to the numeral - - 106 - -.

Claims 31 through 45 were rejected as being unpatentable over the patent to Ohmura, et al. (5,007,494), Cartwright (6,098,742) and Ikeda, et al. (4,364,578). Applicant's attorneys could not locate where the patent to Ikeda, et al. (4,364,578) had officially been made of record. Therefore, applicant's attorneys have enclosed a form to make the patent to Ikeda, et al. of record.

Claim 31 is directed to a steering system having an axle with first and second end portions which are suspended by springs. A steering member is supported in a chamber in the axle. A ball nut is disposed in the chamber in the axle. A drive member is connected with an electric motor in the ball nut to rotate the ball nut.

In addition, claim 31 sets forth a take-off assembly connected to the steering member and having portion projecting from an opening in the axle. A steering linkage is connected with the take-off assembly and extends along an outer side of the axle.

The prior art does not disclose a steering member which is supported in a chamber in an axle. In the patent to Ohmura, et al., a steering member or turning rod has been designated by the numeral 30 in Figs. 1 and 2 (the steering member is referred to in the specification of Ohmura, et al. by the numeral 46). The steering member 30 of Figs. 1 and 2 of Ohmura, et al. is not disposed in an axle.

In the patent to Cartwright a steering apparatus 10 (Fig. 2) is mounted on the outside of a solid front axle 56. The steering members of Cartwright are not disposed in an axle.

The patent to Ikeda, et al. discloses a steering linkage which is disposed outside of an axle (see Fig. 3).

There is no disclosure in any one of the patents to Ohmura, et al., Cartwright, and/or Ikeda, et al. of the concept of having a steering member disposed in a chamber in an axle in the manner set forth in claim 31. Since this concept is not disclosed in any of the references, a combination of the references can not render the subject matter of claim 31 obvious.

In addition, claim 31 defines over the patents to Ohmura, et al., Cartwright, and Ikeda, et al. by setting forth a ball nut as being disposed in the chamber in the axle. The patent to Ohmura, et al. discloses ball screw 44. However, the ball nut of Ohmura, et al. is not disposed in a chamber in an axle. The patents to Cartwright and Ikeda, et al. do not disclose ball nuts.

It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered after final since the Amendment cancel claims 45 through 57 to thereby simplify issues for purposes of appeal. In addition, the amendment corrects formal defects in the drawing and specification. These formal defects were mentioned for the first time in the final rejection. Correction of these formal defects before appeal is filed will facilitate consideration of the appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner call applicant's attorneys in Cleveland, Ohio at 621-2234, area code 216. Please charge any deficiency in the fees for this application to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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